

# *The* **KINGBIRD**



VOLUME V, No. 4

JANUARY • 1956

**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS**



# *The* KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

Vol. 5 No. 4

January 1956

Pages 93-116

## CONTENTS

The High Plateaus of Western N. Y. ....	S. W. Eaton	94
Information Wanted .....	Sally F. Hoyt	97
Your President Says .....		97
State Book Questionnaire .....		98
Regional Reports .....		100

*Editor*—STEPHEN W. EATON

*Associates*—ALLAN S. KLONICK  
EUGENE EISENMANN  
FREDRICK G. MEYER

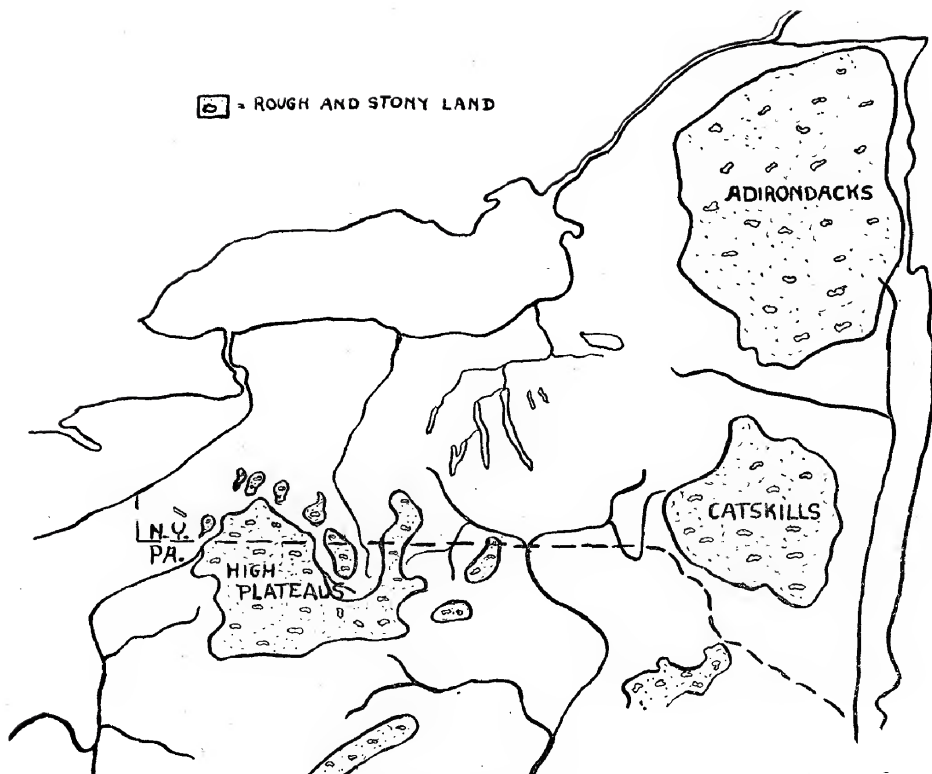
*Business and Circulation Manager* — ALLAN S. KLONICK

*Cover Design*—DOUGLAS L. HOWLAND

**THE KINGBIRD** is published four times a year (May, July, October and January) by the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. Publication office is Biology Dept., St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, N. Y. Publication is sent free to all individual members of the Federation. Membership in the Federation is \$2.00 per year. Single copies: Sixty cents.

APPLICATION for membership should be sent to the chairman of the membership committee, Miss Audrey Louise Wrede, 3109 Beverley Road, Brooklyn 26, N. Y.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS, EXCHANGES AND BACK COPIES are handled by the Treasurer, Allan S. Klonick, 901 Sibley Tower Bldg., Rochester 4, N. Y.



Map of High Plateaus

## THE HIGH PLATEAUS OF WESTERN NEW YORK

STEPHEN W. EATON

The Adirondacks and Catskills are names well known to people of New York State but the High Plateaus of southwestern New York enjoy no such fame. This area is actually a higher portion of the more widely known and more extensive Allegheny Plateau. It is located in the southern half of Cattaraugus and parts of Chautauqua, Allegany and Steuben Counties in New York and McKean, Potter and Elk Counties in Pennsylvania. The top of this plateau averages about 2200 feet with a maximum elevation of 2648 feet which occurs south of our borders in Pennsylvania (see map).

The growing season is approximately 130 days or a month less than the Ontario Lake Plain and is quite similar in this respect to the lower elevations of the Adirondacks and Catskills. Seldom does one see a show of *Forsythia* and Redbud in the residential areas of Olean nor do we hear the Kattydids (and didn'ts) nor the Tree Toads so characteristic along the shores of the Finger Lakes and Lake Ontario. Over a period of twenty years frosts have been recorded in the valleys every month of the year. The maple-beech-birch-hemlock forests are characteristic of the shaded slopes and wet places and in dry sunny places oaks predominate. Mountain Laurel and Mt. Holly are two interesting plants found commonly in the sandy, unglaciated soils of the higher hill tops.

The north branch of the Susquehanna River and its tributaries to the east separate the High Plateaus from the Catskills. This river has had a complex geologic history (H. L. Fairchild, *The Susquehanna River in N. Y. and Evolution of western N. Y. Drainage*, N. Y. State Mus. Bull. 256-1925). Hundreds of millions of years ago the river flowed south from the highlands of central New York into an inland sea lying over much of Pennsylvania. Then by subsequent stream capture the old Susquehanna began to flow northward through Binghamton, Owego and the Seneca Valley into an Ontarian River. With the coming of the glacier, ice and gravel, filling in the old outlet to the north, reversed the flow again to the south. This ancient Susquehanna River, then, has robbed us (with the help of the glacier) of much of our Allegheny Plateau creating a *Susquehanna River-Finger Lakes Corridor*.

The west branch of the Susquehanna has isolated to a lesser degree the High Plateaus from the Allegheny Mountains of west central Pennsylvania. To the north the Genesee and Allegheny Rivers have cut large valleys into the Plateau and these have been further widened along its northern fringe by glaciation. To the west the Allegheny River and the glacier have further scoured the area on that quarter.

Starting from the highest point of the High Plateaus one could by a short portage canoe his way either to the Gulf of the St. Lawrence, Chesapeake Bay or the Gulf of Mexico.

This area — like the Adirondacks and Catskills — is still mainly covered by forest. Today this is true because profitable agriculture is very difficult due in part to poor soils, short growing seasons and steep slopes.

How does this area of high plateau effect the distribution of birds? First it appears that many birds avoid the area on migration. Redwings are seldom seen passing over in the great numbers seen in the Finger Lakes country to the east nor in the same numbers as to the west of the area at Pymatuning. Though we see most species seen in other sections of western New York it is

in numbers of individuals that differences are most striking. During the past five years daily counts of 100 individuals (or more) of one species have been made on only 20 species. These are Whistling Swan 111, Canada Goose 100, Baldpate 130, Redhead 100, Killdeer 117, Chimney Swift 200, Tree Swallow 100, Bank Swallow 200, Cliff Swallow 100, Crow 200, Black-capped Chickadee 100, Robin 200, Starling 3000, English Sparrow 390, Redwing 1000, Grackle 200, Cowbird 100, Goldfinch 300, Junco 300, White-throated Sparrow 100.

In a more subjective vein it appears as though Red-breasted Nuthatches, Winter Wrens, Kinglets, Goldfinches, Pine Siskins, Red Crossbills, Evening Grosbeaks, White-throated Sparrows and Fox Sparrows are more common on migration on the High Plateaus than in the Finger Lakes Region. These species also appear to remain for longer periods in the fall and spring.

When wild black cherries and beechnuts produce good fruit crops, Flickers, Cedar Waxwings, Robins and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appear in good numbers during October.

In winter few species remain in the area. The past five Christmas Censuses have yielded 24, 28, 19, 22 and 25 species. Crows are common during the breeding season but vanish in late October and return about February 15 — our first bird harbinger of spring. Only male Sparrow Hawks and male Kingfishers have been observed here in winter. Many finches appear when the proper fruits are available. Goldfinches, Pine Siskins, Red and White-winged Crossbills and Purple Finches spend the winter when yellow birch and hemlock produce good seed crops. Evening Grosbeaks winter in the residential areas when Box Elder and other introduced fruits are available. If the beech or white ash fruit crop is good this species also may be found in flocks in the wooded country.

The breeding species are extremely interesting because of their great variety. The northern element is well represented by such species as the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Olive-backed Thrush, Blue-headed Vireo, Mourning, Magnolia and Blackburnian Warblers and Junco. All these species nest in fair numbers in their particular habitats. Other interesting northern species are suspected of breeding in the Pennsylvania portion of the High Plateaus. These are the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Red-breasted Nuthatch. The Winter Wren and Whip-poor-will are occasionally seen during the nesting season in the New York portion but to my knowledge no actual nests have been found. The Goshawk and Raven nest in the Pennsylvania portion but have yet to be found nesting in this portion of New York State. It seems strange that with this strong northern element of birds the White-throated Sparrow is missing. Many have looked for it nesting here without success.

Another group of nesters are species characteristic of large, uninterrupted tracts of timber. In this category are Great Blue Heron, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broadwinged Hawk, Turkey, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay and Hooded Warbler. These species, except for the Turkey, do occur in isolated stations on the Ontario Lake Plain and across the Finger Lakes-Susquehanna Corridor but are usually found in small numbers. Here on the High Plateaus they are characteristic species over a wide area.

Southern species are slow to invade the area. Though we now have a fairly constant Cardinal population in the valleys the Carolina Wren, Tufted



Titmouse, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher and Worm-eating Warblers have yet to establish themselves.

Recently (at least since 1949) Turkeys have entered New York State from populations in the wild parts of McKean and Potter Counties, Pennsylvania. The New York State Conservation Department is augmenting this influx with the liberation of about 150 birds a year. So far this project, begun in 1952, seems fairly successful with a few broods of young reported in 1953 and more in 1954. If illegal shooting can be controlled and if sufficient feeders can be maintained during severe winters this species should be successful on the High Plateaus.

Biology Department, St. Bonaventure University,  
St. Bonaventure, N. Y.

---

### INFORMATION WANTED ON PILEATED WOODPECKERS

I am in the process of working up several papers on the life history and ecology of the Pileated Woodpecker, based on the findings of my husband, the late Southgate Y. Hoyt, and my own recent investigations. In connection with this, I am most anxious for information from bird-students in New York State on changes in the status of this bird during the first half of the twentieth century. The Pileated is showing its ability to adapt to civilization to some extent, and has been reported as occurring within the boundaries of villages and cities in recent years. There have also been a few reports of Pileateds coming to feeders, for suet.

I will appreciate very much hearing from any readers who can give me details on the increase in numbers of Pileateds in any given area, changes in their behavior, their feeding habits, and any other interesting observations, particularly any accounts of their coming to feeding stations.

Sally F. Hoyt  
"Aviana", Etna, N. Y.

---

### YOUR PRESIDENT SAYS . . .

This message will be my last as your president, and I welcome the opportunity to thank my fellow officers, Guy Bartlett, Elizabeth Manning, Elizabeth Feldhusen, and Hi Clements for their help and suggestions, as well as for the many hours spent in performing Federation duties.

The same unselfish efforts have attended the work for our several committees functioning in our interests, and have eased my own executive duties materially.

The work of our Membership Committee, led by Audrey Wrede, has been largely responsible for the increase in individual members to over 300, of which seventeen are sustaining members, three are supporting members, and five are life members. Our individual members are the main source of our financial support, so necessary for the publication of *The Kingbird*, and for other activities.

How pleased I was to awake the morning of November 9 and to learn that Amendment 7 (for construction of Panther Mountain Dam) was overwhelmingly defeated. Our Conservation Committee, led by its energetic chairman, Stanley Grierson, was in the thick of this successful fight, and also in the now apparently successful effort to prevent the flooding of much of Dinosaur National Park by the construction of the Echo Park dam.

The Program Committee, under the chairmanship of Al Fudge and with the help of Cecil Ryan and his local committee, functioned admirably and made our annual meeting at Elmira a most successful and memorable occasion.

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee members, under Sam Madison's able leadership, will soon complete their work in arranging for incorporating the Federation under New York State Laws. They will also submit the proposed changes in our Constitution and By-Laws to implement the incorporation and to make other changes previously voted at our council meetings. Regarding the suggestion to shorten the name of our organization, the consensus of opinion so far received is to allow the present name to stand, as it well describes its entity.

For over two years we have had the benefit of the services of Stephen W. Eaton as Editor of *The Kingbird*, and I especially commend him for his excellent handling of this important and time-consuming job, and regret that he cannot continue beyond this present issue. His successor has been the concern of Fred T. Hall, chairman of the Publications and Research Committee, and we are pleased to announce that Mr. Gerald Rising of Rochester has been selected as the new Editor, commencing with the May issue.

In my last message I mentioned that the first questionnaire from the State Book Committee was expected to be mailed soon, but this mailing has been delayed in order to discuss it further at a committee meeting in Syracuse on December 3, when the final draft was approved. Robert Arbib, Jr., has done an outstanding job as chairman of this important committee, which will possibly soon complete its work in organizing, and in making rules and suggestions to be followed in the publication. All of the members of this committee, and its sub-committees, have given much time and effort to further the work on the State Book, and especially Allen Benton, chairman of the sub-committee on Bibliography, and William L. Webb, chairman of the sub-committee on Ecology, who have given so freely of their time and talents.

I wish also to thank, in the name of all Federation members, our Regional Editors for their painstaking and selfless efforts in providing us with such interesting information from all regions in our Empire State.

May I take this occasion to wish for the incoming officers the same fine cooperation which I have received during the past two years, and a most successful administration.

## THE STATE BOOK QUESTIONNAIRE

As members of the Federation are well aware, one of the major reasons for the formation of the Federation, and one of the most important projects that it will ever undertake, is the publication of a new *Birds of New York State*. This project, which has been universally approved as desirable and necessary, has been under discussion and consideration almost since the inception of the Federation.

For the past three or four years a committee, representing all parts of the state, has been hard at work planning this book. Many different problems have been discussed and resolved: the division of the state in recording areas, standards and criteria, content of species write-ups, introductory chapters, editorial organization, and a host of other questions from ecology to illustrations.

The progress of the work has now reached an important stage, at which

the book becomes not merely a committee activity, but a cooperative activity for every bird watcher and recorder of data on New York State ornithology. A questionnaire is now ready (in preparation for more than a year) which will form the basis for all the post-Eaton information found in the book.

Why a questionnaire? Because no other way seems feasible or possible for the quick orderly gathering of the vast aggregate of information tucked away in filing drawers, notebooks, field cards, and club minutes from the Niagara Frontier to Montauk Point. The editors cannot call in all these sources of information and cull them. They cannot talk with every observer who has kept records in the last forty-five years. They can merely ask questions, in as concise and clear form as they know how, and hope that you can provide the answers.

The editors know that almost no one likes a questionnaire. At first glance, theirs look like a lengthy and complicated one. By way of explanation, however, it is not as bad as it seems. In its longest form, it will be seven pages. These seven pages include a page of general instructions with *no questions to answer*, a page of questions devoted to the area you cover (which you need fill in *only on the first questionnaire* you return), two pages on migration, two on breeding, and one on seasonal occurrence other than migration or breeding. Actually, although the total for the longest possible species questionnaire may be 61 questions, other species may vary from 41 to 18.

The editors have standardized the forms, so that elaborate printing revisions are not required for each species. Questionnaires will be sent out in check list order, so that everyone will know which species is next, and may prepare for coming questionnaires.

Another point the editors make is that no one should feel discouraged or disheartened by the length of the questionnaire or their own lack of complete answers. It is hoped that hundreds of returns will come in for each species. No observer anywhere is expected to know all the answers—or even half the answers—to any one questionnaire. If you have merely a *single* scrap of information, a *single* arrival date, a hatching date, a nest site or colony location, return the questionnaire. Your lone record may fill in a gap when all the data are analyzed and reduced to a species write-up in the book.

The first few questionnaires, on the loons and grebes, are in the nature of experiments, in two directions. First, although the editors have revised their questionnaire seven times, they will never know what the flaws in it are until it is actually tried throughout the state. And second, it is a test of our mailing list. Eventually it is hoped that the editors will have the names of every competent observer who has been active in New York State in the past half century, but our present list is probably far from complete. Our list may also contain some names which will prove valueless either because of non-cooperation or lack of information. Needless to say, the editors are in constant search for new names, and anyone knowing competent bird students who do not receive the first questionnaires should send their names to Robert F. Deed, 50 Clinton Avenue, Nyack, N. Y.

In conclusion, the forthcoming state book is the once-in-your-life-time opportunity to enter the information you have gathered about New York State birds in a permanent, lasting important treatise. The opportunity presents itself to create a state book packed with more valuable data than any other ever published. But it can only be published, and only be complete, if the data in your notebooks, field cards, and club records are made available to us. The editors hope that you will make it your most absorbing work during the months ahead.

Robert Arbib, Jr.



# REGIONAL REPORTS

## HIGHLIGHTS AUGUST THROUGH NOVEMBER 1955

Southeastern and central New York was pounded by gale winds and torrential rains as the results of hurricanes Connie (Aug. 13) and Diane (Aug. 18). These storms came much earlier than last year and brought with them different species. This year terns, petrels and sandpipers were displaced (see Regions 3, 4, 9 and 10; also *Atlantic Naturalist* Vol. 11, No. 2, p. 77; *Aud. Field Notes* Vol. 9, No. 5). Least Terns were reported from regions 3, 4 and 9; Sootys from region 3 (just south at Athens, Pa.), regions 9 and 10; a Leach's Petrel on Seneca Lake (Reg. 3).

The three great song bird families — warblers, blackbirds and sparrows — appeared to prosper well this year, at least they were often seen in large numbers this fall. White-crowned Sparrows were unusually numerous in Regs. 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10. Redwings lingered late and were seen in spectacular numbers in the central part of the State. Baird's Sandpipers — an unusual species in western New York — were reported from Regs. 3, 4 (seven in one day early Sept.) and 5.

## SUMMARY OF TREE AND SHRUB FRUIT CROPS MATURING 1955

Region	1'	3	4	5	6	7*	9"	10
Red Pine -----	—	F	—	G	P	G	—	—
White Pine -----	—	P	—	G	F	G	—	—
Pitch Pine -----	—	—	—	—	F	G	—	G
Larch -----	—	G	—	G	G	P	—	—
White Spruce -----	—	F	—	F	F	F	—	—
Black Spruce -----	—	—	—	—	F	F	—	—
Red Spruce -----	—	—	—	—	—	P	—	—
Balsam Fir -----	—	G	—	F	P	—	—	—
Hemlock -----	G	G	G	F	F	G	P	—
Arbor-vitae -----	—	—	—	G	P	F	—	—
Red Cedar -----	—	—	—	—	P	F	—	F
Bayberry -----	—	—	—	—	—	G	F-G	P
Ironwood ( <i>Ostrya</i> ) -----	F	F	—	P	F	G	—	—
Blue Beech ( <i>Carpinus</i> ) -----	F	F	—	—	P	G	—	—
Yellow Birch -----	G	—	—	G	G	F	—	—
White Birch -----	—	—	G	G	G	G	—	F
Amer. Beech -----	G	G	G	P	P	F	—	—
White Oak -----	P	P	G	P	F	P	G	G
Red Oak -----	P	P	—	P	F	G	G	G
Cucumber Tree -----	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mt. Ash -----	—	G	G	F	G	F	F	—
Thornapple -----	G	G	G	F	P	G	—	—
Wild Black Cherry -----	G	G	P	P	G	G	—	F
Box Elder -----	—	—	G	G	G	G	—	—
Sugar Maple -----	F	F	F	P	F	G	P	—
Grey Dogwood -----	—	G	G	—	—	G	G	—
Red-osier Dogwood -----	—	G	—	F	—	—	—	—
White Ash -----	G	—	—	F	G	G	P	—
Black-berried Elder -----	G	G	F	F	G	G	—	—

P—poor crop, F—fair crop, G—good crop

'—southern Cattaraugus Co., \*Champlain Valley, " Rockland Co.

The fruit crop this fall, as summarized below, is almost the reverse of

last year. On the western and central part of the Alleghany Plateau beech-nuts, wild black cherries, white ash and hemlock produced good crops but in the east this crop was poor to fair. Acorns were generally scarce in the western part of the State but good in the Champlain Valley and southeastern portions.

Grey Shrikes, Evening Grosbeaks, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers and Golden-crown Kinglets seem to be wintering in fair numbers in western and south-central portions of the State.

## REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

CLARKE S. BEARDSLEE

August was very hot. The two-month drought was broken by a 2.4" fall on the 10th. Another inch fell on the 13th as Hurricane Connie's westward edge passed through. Some warblers arrived from the north exceptionally early, for no apparent reason. September was closer to normal, but October again was warm and rainy, — the second wettest October of record (8.12"). It was mild enough to delay the southward movement of many land birds. November was stormy. A record seiche, with very high WSW winds, occurred on the 16th and 17th, and was followed by a blinding snowstorm. Twenty inches of snow fell on the 28th and 29th, causing a state of emergency to be declared in South Buffalo. Three species of vireos, four of warblers, and a Baltimore Oriole were present at the same time Red Crossbills, White-winged Crossbills, Evening Grosbeaks, and other northern species were being reported.

**LOONS — DUCKS:** The latest egret record was 9/4 at Randolph (C. Parker); a very late Least Bittern was observed 9/29 by A. Schaffner (Buffalo). Parker reported 300 Whistling Swans on upper Chautauqua Lake on 11/6 and throughout the balance of November. A large flock of Swans flew SE over Vandalia 11/9. A B.O.S. census on 10/16 showed a total of 1404 Canada Geese, but neither Blue nor Snow have been reported this fall. A single European Widgeon was found 10/16 at Stilson's Pond (Eschelmans); this bird remains a rarity, while Gadwalls are definitely more numerous than they were twenty years ago, no less than 10 having been seen at Grand Island 10/20 (A.S., B. Nathan, H. Thorpe). Twelve hundred Redheads (a very large flock for western New York) were counted 10/30 at Mayville by Robinson and Lenna (rep. C.P.).

**HAWKS — OWLS:** A peregrinating Broad-wing was observed 8/24 (very early) by D. Brownstein in Delaware Park. Our first Rough-leg arrived 10/13 (Grand Island, R. Coggeshall). Chautauqua Lake lived up to its reputation by furnishing a record of 2000 Coots on 10/16 (C.P., et al.). A few Golden Plover records are at hand, but none of the numbers of recent years. Two late Spotted Sandpipers were counted on the 10/16 census. Both Snipe and Woodcock were last seen 11/13 at Grand Island (J. Stains), and Greater Yellowlegs, also at Grand Island, on 11/6 (C. Beardslee). Gull records for the period were very spotty. A single Franklin's was observed 11/26 at Buffalo (B.N., A.S.), constituting a very late record indeed. No little Gulls were reported, and neither Glaucous nor Iceland Gulls had arrived by November's end. One Kumlien's Gull was found on 11/20 (Niagara Falls, A.S.), and 10,000 Bonaparte's Gulls were on the Niagara River above the International Bridge throughout the latter half of November. The last Common Tern was found (as always) off Squaw Island, Buffalo, on the very late date of 11/27 (A.S. et al.). Three Forster's Terns were reported on the 10/16 census. The highest count of Black Terns was 2000 on 8/21 (Niagara River, H. Mitchell); this is very low, and possibly the peak was missed by our observers. Two late Black-billed Cuckoos showed up for our 10/16 census. The only owl record of moment was a Saw-whet which the Klambundes found at Youngstown 11/24 and 11/26.

**SWIFTS — SHRIKES:** The last Nighthawk record was of two seen on 9/18 (Snyder, R. Verrill), the earliest date for the last record (if you know what I mean) that I can recall. Swifts also left early, latest record being of two 9/13 (Buffalo, A.S.).

Flycatcher and Swallow departures were normal. A Red-bellied Woodpecker visited the Thompson feeder at Castile from 11/8 to 11/30. A Longbilled Marsh Wren was reported from the Fredonia area on the 10/16 census, and several Carolina Wrens were reported. An early Gray-cheeked thrush was seen on 9/12 (Grand Island, H.M.), and a very late Olive-back on 11/5 (Forest Lawn, B.N., A.S., M. Emerson). A flock of 150 Pipits was reported from Grand Island on 9/21 (A.S., D.B.) Another good shrike winter is in prospect, as Gray Shrikes were reported in six localities from 10/25 (when S. Eaton collected one immature) throughout November.

**VIREOS — WARBLERS:** An early Philadelphia Vireo record (9/3, Forest Lawn, H. M.) serves as a foil for three extremely late vireo records: A Solitary on 11/19 (Forest Lawn, H. M.), a Red-eye on 11/5 (Forest Lawn, B.N., A.S.), and a White-eye on 11/13 (Forest Lawn, collected by H. M.) Among the warblers also we find very early and very late dates. Imagine Tennessees here from 8/24 (2 Delaware Park, A.S.) until 11/13 (Forest Lawn, H.M., M.E., C.B.)! Heilborn reported an extremely early Cape May (8/11) and an even more amazing Myrtle (8/6) from the Falls. An extremely late Bay-breasted was found in Delaware Park (10/16, C.B.); an early Blackpoll in Forest Lawn (8/19, W. Brockner); a very late Common Yellowthroat in Buffalo (11/29, Chapman, Rep. H.M.); and a very late Redstart at Niagara Falls (11/5, Heilborn). We merely record these occurrences, — we do not presume to explain them.

**BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:** A Baltimore Oriole was seen in Buffalo on 11/20 (Swartzreigen, rep. H. M.). A very late Rose-breasted Grosbeak visited Hamburg on 10/26 (R. Avery). A very nice incursion of northern finches characterized the final month. Eaton reported them "flooding the wooded areas of southern Cattaraugus County", and in other areas also there were many records of Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, Redpoll, Siskin, and Purple Finch. Possibly the most interesting record in the sparrow family is supplied by one of the totals from our 10/16 census, — 1205 White-crowned Sparrows.

132 McKinley Ave., Kenmore, N. Y.

## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

August was unusually hot and dry. Hurricane "Connie" brought a few hoped-for accidentals. September and early October brought record-breaking rains throughout the Finger Lakes, which helped in restoring the water-table, and brought Shorebirds into wet fields when mudflats were covered.

November was relatively mild and wet. Killing freezes were late in coming.

**LOONS — DUCKS:** Red-throated Loons appeared on Cayuga Lake during migration in November. Horned Grebes seemed in good numbers, and one was seen on Beebe Lake on the Cornell campus on 11/22 (Fischer).

Hurricane "Connie" in August did not bring in the reports of accidentals that we hoped for. However, a Leach's Petrel was seen clearly by Loren Ward on 8/14 on Seneca, and he was able to get other observers there to confirm his identification before the bird disappeared.

Great Blue Herons and American Egrets were at Montezuma in good numbers in Aug. and Sept. Last date for Am. Egret 10/2 (Walker). Black-Crowned Herons were reported as somewhat scarcer this year. A Least Bittern, scarce this year, was seen by Thurber at Montezuma on 10/2.

4 Whistling Swans spent almost a month on a flooded field at Smithport; south of Elmira — first seen on 10/22. (York). All areas reported good flights of Canada Geese, and 15 have remained in Branchport basin since last week in November. L. Smith reports 8 Blue Geese with the Canadas at the Refuge in November.

40 Brant flew over Ithaca on 10/21 (Fischer et al), and L. Smith reports the following numbers of Brant at the Refuge 200 from 10/23-29; 500 from 11/6-12; 75 from 11/13-19. There are increasing numbers of these reported each year recently.

Black Ducks and American Mergansers were on Punch Bowl Lake in Watkins Glen State Park on 11/27 (Robinson).

400 Wood Ducks spent a week early in Sept. on Montezuma (Smith).

Scaups are scarce on Keuka (Guthrie). 2 Ruddy Ducks were on Seneca on 11/20 (Walker).

An American Merganser on Penn Yan marsh on 10/30 (Orcutt) was early. 3 Hooded Mergansers were at Montezuma on 11/5 (Thurber).

L. Smith, Refuge Manager at Montezuma, has kindly let me see a copy of his memorandum to the Fish and Wildlife Service concerning the great increase in the number of ducks of all species using the Refuge this fall in migration. For 4 weeks, beginning in late October, over 100,000 ducks used the refuge. Estimates include 40,000 Mallards, 25,000 Blacks, 15,000 Pintails, 2000 Ringnecks and 4000 Green-winged Teals. Rather than representing an increase in total duck population, Mr. Smith feels that several factors served to provide ideal food and cover conditions on the main pool. Carp control was undertaken this year in the main pool, and millet planted. While it was first thought that Bobolinks had done great damage, apparently much of the seed was shaken to the ground, rather than consumed. Skim ice held off later than usual also. It is hoped that the successful management practices of this year will be repeated next year.

**HAWKS — OWLS:** Turkey Vultures continued to seem scarce at Montezuma (Walker). Various observers reported a good hawk migration at the Refuge, with more Roughlegs than usual (Smith) including 2 black phase noted. Spiker noted a Roughleg near Keuka on 10/22. 32 Redtails were seen at Montezuma on 11/5 (Thurber). Few Marsh Hawks reported around Keuka this fall (Guthrie). A Peregrine was seen at Montezuma 10/1 (F. Scheider, et al).

Ring-necked Pheasants seem less abundant in Ithaca area this fall. Both Virginia and Sora Rails were scarce around Keuka (Guthrie); but Florida Gallinules were abundant at the Refuge (Walker). Coots continue to increase throughout the area: were "unusually plentiful" on Keuka (Guthrie), 250 counted on Seneca 11/20 (Ward), "very abundant" on Cayuga (AAA).

Shorebird migration was disappointing, chiefly because mud flats in several of the favorite spots were under water, following the heavy rains. However, the Refuge had good mudflats and all expected species were reported in good numbers. A late Greater Yellowlegs was at the Refuge 11/9 (Thurber). A Baird's Sandpiper, not always noted, was seen 8/31 at Sapsucker Woods pond. (AAA).

An Avocet was seen at Montezuma 9/25 by the Seamans, Ward, and Farrand, and has been well documented.

A Caspian Tern was reported on breakwater at south end of Cayuga 8/5 (Robinson) and several more were seen the following week by other observers. A Least Tern was seen and photographed by Al Fudge at Branchport, on Keuka, on 8/14.

Although just out of the Region, a Sooty Tern found dead on the James Pryne farm at Athens, Pa. on 8/17, and now in the Cornell collection, should be noted here, to add to the hurricane casualties.

A very late date for Barn Owls to have young in the nest was that reported by A. A. Allen on Dart farm the first week in Sept.

**SWIFTS — SHRIKES:** 200 Chimney Swifts were seen entering the Baptist Church chimney in Waterloo, 9/2 (Walker). Red-headed Woodpeckers were missing from several usual stations (Walker), but there was at least one pair around Ithaca. Hairy Woodpeckers seem slightly more numerous (Höyt). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, always scarce, was seen at Avoca 10/5 (Atwood). Swallows lingered into early October at Montezuma, 400 Tree Swallows being reported there on 10/2 (Thurber) and both Bank and Rough-winged on 10/1 by Scheider et al.

Blue Jays are again reported as becoming more common in northern Seneca Co. (Walker).

At Wellsburg, Titmice brought young to feeder 6/14 (Burnham. (Omitted from last report).

Brown Creepers in unusual numbers were seen in evergreens at Rifle Range near Ithaca 10/21 (Randy Little). All observers reported fewer House Wrens than usual. A Carolina Wren turned up in Avoca during Hurricane Connie in Aug. (Carter). Increasing number of reports of Carolina Wrens around Ithaca.

Golden-crowned Kinglet migration was at its height in Elmira on 10/13 (K. Fudge).

Pipits were reported 10/15 at Spencer (AAA), at Montezuma last week in Oct. (Smith) and plentiful in Elmira October and early November (Welles).

Imm. Grey Shrike 11/6 at Avoca (Carter).

**VIREOS — WARBLERS:** A Blue-headed Vireo was banded 9/22 at Penn Yan by Lerch.

In Watkins area, the Warblers migration was better from the end of Aug., through Oct., than it had been in spring. Warblers were also reported as migrating in good numbers at Geneva the first week in October (DeMayo.)



A late Parula Warbler was seen at Indian Pines, near Penn Yan 10/22 (Orcutt). Thurber found Myrtles in unusually large numbers all fall throughout this area. An interesting observation of one or more Palm Warblers was made by Welles, at Elmira on 9/13, 9/21 and again 10/6, as the bird fed on insects on a hay rake, for some time. A Connecticut Warbler was banded by Lerch 9/19 at Penn Yan. This species has been reported only 5 times in 10 years in that area.

**BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:** Well over 5000 Bobolinks fed on millet at Montezuma Refuge from 8/20 to 9/18 (Smith, Walker). As reported elsewhere, they shook much to the ground where it was available later for ducks. Reports of Redwings destroying grain extensively were investigated by Walker, where it was found that the real culprit was the Starling, with a few Redwings. Redwings were reported as unusually abundant everywhere, and lingering late. (Est. 100,000 at Montezuma 11/9. Thurber). A male Baltimore Oriole was seen by several observers at a feeder in Forest Home, Ithaca in late November. Migrating Scarlet Tanagers were evident in Etna on 9/14 (Dickinson, Hoyt).

It is evidently going to be a good year for Evening Grosbeaks, first reported 10/24 at Ithaca (Fischer) with numerous scattered reports since, all areas except Watkins. A few Pine Grosbeaks have also been seen. 1 Red Crossbill, Snyder Hill, Ithaca 11/25 (Fischer). No Redpolls yet. 1 Pine Siskin, Ithaca 11/25 (Fisher). 15 Pine Siskins at Avoca, 10/26; feeding on arbor vitae seeds. (Carter.) Goldfinches abundant everywhere.

No Grasshopper Sparrows reported in 1955 by Eaton Bird Club, also scarce at Ithaca. White-throated Sparrows seemed scarce in migration at Ithaca, abundant at Avoca (Atwood). Lincoln Sparrows in unusual numbers at Keuka. Lerch banded 17, Spiker 3.

Lapland Longspurs at Montezuma early in November (York, et al), scattered reports elsewhere. Snow Buntings 10/22 near Penn Yan (Lerch), and in small numbers around Ithaca (AAA and others).

"Aviana", Etna, N. Y.

## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The weather during this period has been characterized by extremes. It was mainly very hot and dry during August, but towards the end of that month and during September we were subjected to several violent wind and rain storms, not all of which were associated with tropical hurricanes. October was the wettest month since weather records have been kept in the Triple Cities area in terms of total precipitation, although the last few days of the month and the first week or so of November produced the only appreciable stretch of fair weather of the fall season. From then on the weather became cold and raw but the only noticeable amount of snow fell during Thanksgiving week and even that didn't last very long on the ground.

**LOONS — DUCKS:** A Common Loon spent 3 days from 11/19 to 11/21 on White's Pond near Norwich (R. & S. White). Loon records are infrequent enough, in the Susquehanna Region, to make each one noteworthy. Our first Horned Grebe was at Norwich 10/12 (R. White).

A flock of 6 American Egrets was seen along the Delaware River near Deposit 8/9 (Wilson). No more were reported all fall. Black-crowned Night Herons were seen at Sherburne several times from 8/9 to 10/16 (R. & S. White). There were never more than 4 seen at one time and they were all adults.

The first Canada Geese were two at Norwich 10/1 (R. White). A migration peak seemed to be reached the week-end of 10/8 when several good sized flocks were noted in various places. A second less pronounced peak was apparent about 10/23.

A late Wood Duck was at Mead Pond near Norwich 11/27 (Nodecker). A male Old Squaw was at White's Pond 11/19 (R. & S. White). Two Ruddy Ducks were at the same place 11/20 and a single 11/27.

**HAWKS — OWLS:** A Turkey Vulture was seen near Deposit 10/2 (Wilson). That is the only part of the region from which Vultures are reported with anything approaching regularity.

A late Broad-winged Hawk was at Unadilla 10/12 (Wisner) and the first Rough-legged Hawk was at Norwich 10/2 (R. & S. White). A Bald Eagle was seen south of Deposit 9/6 (Wilson).



2 Baird's Sandpipers were reported at Sherburne 8/7 and 3 more at the same place 8/14 (R. & S. White).

A flock of 25 Ring-billed Gulls was at Oquaga Lake near Deposit 8/5 (Wilson). Gulls of any kind are rarely seen in this region during the summer months. A Least Tern was at Norwich 8/16 (R. & S. White).

A Barred Owl was heard near Norwich 8/28 at 6 p.m. (R., S. & L. White).

**GOATSUCKERS — SHRIKES:** Our last Nighthawk was seen 9/7 at Endwell, near Binghamton, (Bemont) and the last Chimney Swift was at Boland's Marsh 9/11 (Triple Cities Naturalists' Club).

The first Sapsucker of the season was near Binghamton 9/18 (TCNC). The last Phoebe was at Norwich 10/21 (R. White) and the last Wood Pewee near Binghamton 9/26. (H. Marsi).

Our first Red-breasted Nuthatch was at Norwich 9/25 (S. White). This is the only report of the species received from anywhere except the Deposit area where the first one arrived 10/1 and the woods were literally full of them all through the month of November. Mr. Wilson writes that he has never known them to be so common.

An early Brown Creeper was at Norwich 8/31 (R. White).

The last large flocks of Robins were observed near Binghamton 10/24 (H. Marsi) although there were several later reports of individual birds. The last Olive-backed Thrush was at Oxford 10/27 (Stratton) and 3 Bluebirds 11/11 at Choconut Center near Binghamton (Sheffields) were the last of that species.

Our first Golden-crowned Kinglets were 5 at Norwich 9/25 (S. White). All Ruby-crowned Kinglet reports fell between 9/21 and 10/23. Two American Pipits were at Norwich 9/12 (R. White).

A Northern Shrike was seen 11/24 and another 11/25, both in the general vicinity of Coventry but about 2 miles apart (Mrs. Nodecker). A Migrant Shrike was at Preston 8/18 (R. & S. White).

**VIREOS — WARBLERS:** A Red-eyed Vireo was still feeding an almost fully grown young one near Norwich 8/31 (R. White).

A very late Black and White Warbler was at Oxford 11/15 (Stratton). The first fall Nashville Warbler was at Norwich 9/11 (R. & S. White) and the species was reported fairly frequently until 10/10 when the last one was seen near Binghamton (H. Marsi). Several Parula Warblers seen 10/1 near Deposit were the last ones (Wilson). There was one Cape May Warbler report turned in all fall and that from the Binghamton area 9/18 (TCNC). An early Myrtle Warbler was at Guilford 8/28 (R. & S. White). A late Blackburnian Warbler was at Oxford 10/24 (Stratton) and a late Chestnut-sided Warbler was seen near Binghamton 10/17 (H. Marsi). A Yellow-breasted Chat was singing 9/18 in the Binghamton area (TCNC).

**BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:** A large flock (1½ mile long) of Redwings was seen migrating over Oxford 10/12 (Stratton). The last flock noted was at Unadilla 10/24 and was comprised of 150-200 birds (Wisner).

Evening Grosbeaks have been present around Unadilla since 11/4 (Wisner), 11/11 at Deposit (Wilson) and 11/28 at Oxford. None had been reported around Binghamton by the end of the month. White-crowned Sparrows migrated thru during the first 9 days of October. A single bird seen 11/6 at Chenango Valley State Park near Binghamton (TCNC) was the lone exception reported.

710 University Ave., Endwell, N. Y.

## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

August was wet, September and the 1st half of Oct. were mild, the latter half of Oct. windy and rainy, November windy and cold. Hurricane "Connie" in August had no *observed* avian effects in the area. Certain fall migrants came thru in much greater numbers, namely: loons, grebes, scoters, and Amer. and Red-breasted Mergansers — best numbers in many years; shorebirds — good to very good but left abruptly in mid-Oct.; warblers and sparrows — counts much above expected fall counts. On the other hand, certain groups were seen in fewer numbers than usual, namely: geese, dabbling ducks and the Scaup-Redhead group — fair to poor to very poor; flycatchers and swallows — at best, only a fair flight. Certain species of those

groups passing in the greatest numbers were notably scarce, eg. Ruddy Turnstone and Red-backed Sandpiper, Blue-headed Vireo, Palm Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Fox Sparrow. Brant and Forsters Tern, rare but regular species at Sandy Pond for the past 4 years, were unrecorded there, despite more intensive field work.

A notable feature of the autumn movement was the frequency of fall singing, especially in White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows. The mouse population appears to be on the upswing after last year's low.

**LOONS — DUCKS:** Common Loon — high fall count is 175, 11/6, Sandy Pond. Red-throated Loon — 3, 11/6, same place; 1, 11/13, south shore of Oneida Lake is 1st recent inland record. Red-necked Grebe — 3 (all Nov.) reports, the highest, 30, 11/6, off Sandy Pond. Horned Grebe — common to very common this fall; peak count is 350, 11/24, Oneida Lake. Pied-billed Grebe — the high of 300, 11/13, Oneida Lake will probably stand for years. Double-cr. Cormorant — 1, 10/9, Sunset Lake, Oneida (H. P. Nodecker) is an unusual "inland", i.e., away from Lake Ontario, report. American Egret — 7, 9/17, Shackleton Point, Oneida Lake (E. Evans, M. Bitz) is last date.

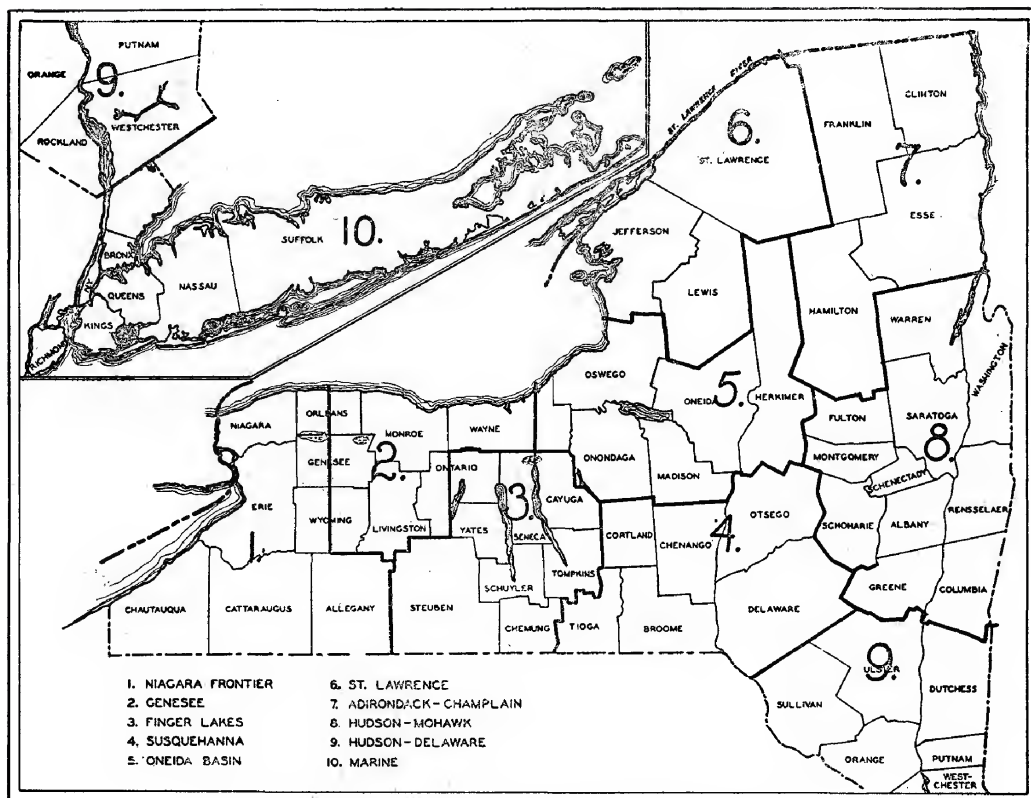
Canada Geese — 1st arrivals, 25, 9/22, Westernville (Mrs. F. W. May); high count of 1500 at Mud Lake, Onon. Co., though better than last year, is still a poor showing. Brant — unreported. Gadwall — 2 fall records, both from NW Onon. Co.; 1 on 11/13, Clay Swamp, is our latest date. Pintail and Green-winged Teal — both reported seldom and in low numbers; Blue-winged Teal — 1, 11/6, Selkirk, (L. Chamberlaine) is late. Baldpate — the only transient dabbler in numbers above common. Shoveller — 1 female, 11/24, Mud Lake, is our latest date. Wood Duck — more late birds than ever before; Scaup — Redhead group — except for Ring-necked Duck (high of 700, 11/20, Mud Lake), this group, especially Scaup, came thru in greatly reduced numbers. Canvasbacks were only 20% of last year's numbers. Buffle-head — better than average numbers (70 on 2 days). Scoters — excellent flight of all 3 along Lake Ontario with both American and Surf reported from Mud (on 10/8 and Oneida (on 11/20) Lakes. Ruddy Duck — by numbers, actually a common duck with high of 65, 11/24, but reports are all from Oneida and Mud Lake, none along Lake Ontario.

Hooded Merganser — 2, 9/17, Verona Beach, are 1st fall birds; very scarce until last 2 weeks of Nov.; high of 100 on 11/24. American and Red-breasted Mergansers — 9000 on 11/6 on Lake Ontario with 1 loose flock of 5000 off the Oswego bluffs.

**HAWKS — OWLS** No flight of accipiters and small falcons reported from the Sandy Pond dunes in Sept. but there were no strong NW winds on the week-ends. Broad-winged Hawk and Harrier — reports of singles (Mrs. F. W. M. W. R. Spofford, F. S.) of these species in known unoccupied areas in early and mid-August may represent post-breeding wanderers or, more likely, the vanguard of the fall flight. Rough-legged Hawk — 1st date, 1 dark phase bird on 11/6, near Baldwinsville; 5 already reported for Nov. Osprey — about twice as many records this fall; high of 3, 9/11, Sandy Pond; last date, 1, 10/15, Sylvan Beach, being harassed by a Ring-billed Gull, as it sought to carry a large fish against a strong E wind. Peregrine Falcon — 3, 10/9, Sandy Pond, (1 of the 3, an immature, judging by its unmarked cream-puff crown, pale coloration, and remarkable tameness, was probably an Arctic bird — W. R. S.). Merlin — 1 female, 9/15, Onondaga Valley (L. C.) is the only fall report.

Ringer Plover — 1, 11/5, Verona Beach, is our latest. Golden Plover — 5 reports (9/11 - 9/25) with 30, 9/18, near Phoenix, as the Regional peak count. Ruddy Turnstone — a check of all reports shows this species as a **rare** migrant this season. Wilson's Snipe — few reported, but dates range from early July to mid-Oct. Hudsonian Curlew — 2 reports with 1, 9/17, Bridgeport, the 1st recent record away from Lake Ontario. Spotted Sand. — 1, 10/9, Verona Beach (the Ackleys) is quite late. Solitary Sandp. — up to 5/day in one small pool near Constantia in late August. Greater Yellow-legs — last reported, 1, on 11/6, is an early "last date" for this species. Knot — only 1, 8/18, at Sylvan Beach; despite better coverage, none at Sandy Ponds. Baird's Sandp. — a minor wave passed thru in early Sept. with a high of 7, 9/12, Onondaga Lake; a remarkable last date is 1, 10/15, Sylvan Beach. Red-backed Sand. — very poor flight; high count is just 6 on 10/2, Sandy Pond; no Nov. records. More Dowitchers and White-rumped Sandp. were reported, but in

## REPORTING REGIONS



**For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV, Nos. 1 and 2**

a limited period — 8/10 to 9/12. Stilt Sandp. — only 1 report, of 4, 9/11, Onondaga Lake. Western Sand. — 2 reports, both from Sylvan Beach; none from the Sandy Pond strip. Northern Phalarope — just 1 reported, 9/3, Sandy Pond Inlet (R. McKinney).

Jaeger — a fine sub-adult, light-phase bird was seen chasing gulls on 9/10, Sylvan Beach (F. S.) and an immature was seen 9/, Sandy Pond (R. M., F. S.). Bonaparte's Gull — the August and early Sept. counts at the eastern end of Oneida Lake were normal, but the late Oct. and Nov. counts were less than half the usual number. Common Tern — 75 on 10/9, Oneida Lake, is surprising (the Ontario birds had left 3 weeks before), but 1, 11/15 near Bridgeport on Oneida Lake is our latest by far. Snowy Owl — 1, 3rd week of Nov. near Oneida (fide P. Paquette) is the only report. Short-eared Owl — none reported to date. Saw-whet Owl — 1 with an injured wing was captured with a lab coat on roof of Syracuse U. Chemistry Building, 11/15, by Dr. B. P. Burt.

**SWIFTS — SHRIKES:** Flicker — fall peak from the Sandy Pond area is 27, 9/18, actually an only fair count for that time and place. Red-headed Woodpecker — 1, 8/23, East Floyd, Oneida Co. (Mrs. F. W. M., Mrs. H. Aspinwall) is probably a post-breeding wanderer, but the 3 adults and 2 immatures on 9/15, Onondaga Valley (Mrs. G. Chamberlaine) seems to indicate a new and successful breeding station. Sapsucker — very poor numbers this season. Crested Flyc. — last date, 1, 9/18, Sandy Pond. Yellow-bellied Flyc. — 2 on 9/18, 1 at Sandy Pond, 1 at Syracuse, are late. No Olive-sided Flyc. reported. Tree Swallow — 1, 10/16, Sandy Pond (M. Wrangell) is last report; none had been reported for 3 weeks before that weekend of strong E winds. Black-capped Chickadee — there were indications of



a light flight along the Sandy Pond dunes in the 1st half of Oct.

Red-Breasted Nuthatch: Extremely scarce all fall; 3 is the best single-day count. Brown Creeper — several reports of flocks of 12-15 in early and mid-Oct. Fall House Wren counts are quite low, reflecting the low summer numbers; conversely, the Winter Wren came thru in good numbers (for a wren). Carolina Wren — 2 new stations for this recent invader, 1-2 at Skaneateles in Nov. (L. H. Hiscock, Miss R. Seaman), 1 at Sandy Pond regularly from 9/3 to 11/24, the last date of

Wood Thrush: 1, 10/3, Westernville (Mrs. F. W. M.) is somewhat late. Hermit Thrush — peak fall counts fall in a very short period, 10/- 10/18. Gray-cheeked Thrush — Dr. B. P. B. banded 3 between 9/13 - 9/16 at Syracuse. Olive-backed Thrush — the fall flight was poor and numbers heard passing over on only one night. Golden-crowned Kinglet — flight again only fair, never above common. Ruby-crowned Kinglet — short, but heavy flight (100 peak on 10/9) in 1st 2 weeks of Oct. Pipit — 1st date is 10, on 9/3, Sandy Pond. Gray Shrike — 1st arrival is an adult, 11/13, Clay Swamp; 6 reported from that date to end of period. Logger-head Shrike — an adult on 11/12, south of Sandy Pond (L. C., M. W., F. S.) is late.

**VIROES — WARBLERS:** Blue-headed Vireo — unrecorded from most areas; where reported, singles only. Philadelphia Vireo — 1, 10/10, Kenwood, Oneida (H. P. N.) is a late departure date. Warbling Vireo — persistent singing noted until late date, 9/18, South Bay, Oneida Lake.

Warblers: All reporters comment on the numbers of warblers this fall; although 16 species of this group were recorded for the 1st half of Oct., an almost complete lack of reports (except Myrtle) after this would indicate an abrupt departure, a situation consonant with the sharp change of weather about that time. Black-&-white and Tennessee — 1 and 3 respectively on 10/8 are late dates. Orange-crowned — 4 birds reported between 9/18 - 10/16. Parula — 1, 10/9, is late; 1 on 9/10, Sylvan Beach, engaged in repeated singing. Magnolia — 2 on 10/8, Syracuse, attest to the mild weather of early Oct. Blackthroated Blue — 1 male in high plumage, on 10/9, Verona Beach, is last date. Myrtle & Black-poll — both noteworthy for numbers (500 for each on 9/18) and departure dates — 1, 10/25, and 1, 10/9 respectively, both of which are early. Blackburnian and Chestnut-sided — both scarce in the small land bird flights along Sandy Pond, but noted in numbers at Oneida (H. P. N.) with departure dates 9/13 and 9/18 in that order. Bay-breasted — 1 on 10/8, Syracuse, and 1, 10/9, Verona Beach, are quite late. Pine — only report is 3, 10/18 - 20, Syracuse. Palm — scarce; none in the latter half of Oct. Northern Water-thrush — 1 on 10/9, Sandy Pond, is our "latest date ever". Connecticut — 1, 9/17, near Bridgeport; a flock of 7 on 10/10, Selkirk (E. E.); an actually freak date is an adult male trapped and banded on 7/13 at Syracuse (B. P. B.). Wilson's — 1st date is 8/23, Rome; a few in the 1st ½ of Sept. at Oneida & Sandy Pond, with 2, 9/18, at the latter area as the last. Canada — just 3 Sept. records, the latest, 9/13, Westernville.

**BLACKBIRDS — FRINGILLIDS:** A roost of 30,000 Icterids at Clay Swamp contained 10% Cowbirds on 9/16. Rusty Blackbird — not reported until 10/2; probably reflects lack of observers, not tardiness of the Rusties. Scarlet Tanager — up to 8/day at Oneida in mid-Sept.; last date — 1, 10/8, Syracuse. Rose-breasted Grosbeak — both this and the Baltimore Oriole were seen in numbers thru the last 3 weeks of Sept. at Oneida & Westernville, but were very scarce in the Sandy Pond-Selkirk Area.

Evening Grosbeak: 1st reported on 10/23, Onondaga Valley; seen in small numbers (1-10) to mid-Nov. First date for Redpolls is 10, 11/6, and for Pine Siskins, 9, 10.2, both from Sandy Pond. Grasshopper Sparrow — an adult carefully observed on 10/8 near Baldwinsville (M. W., F. S.). Henslow's Sparrow — 1 singing on 9/16, Clay Swamp; 1 adult on 10/8, Three Rivers GMA. The above 2 species' October dates are record late dates. Tree Sparrow — 1st arrivals in at South Onondaga and Oneida on 10/23; some were singing on the last weekend of Oct. White-crowned Sparrow — an excellent flight with 1st arrivals on 9/18, peak of 200 on 10/8, and last date on 10/20. White-throated Sparrow virtually swarmed thru the area; 1st birds on 9/11 at Sandy Pond (the ones that appear there are practically certain to be migrants; whereas areas around Oneida Lake receive strays from the birds that breed north & east of the lake); 100/day thru 1st 3 weeks of Oct., and then a sudden drop in numbers in the last week of that month; few Nov. reports. Fox Sparrow — only singles, 10/8 - 11/3; completely missed in many areas. Lincoln's Sparrow — at least 8 reported (9/18 - 10/18), 2 of which were banded, 1 on 9/28, Syracuse, (B. P. B.), 1 on 10/18, Oneida, (H. P. N.). Snow Bunting — earliest report is 55 on 10/1, Oswego bluffs.

Correction to the Regional Report in Vol. V, No. 3, p. 87 — Knot — 1 on 6/2, 2 on 6/5, Sandy Pond.

151 Seventh North Street, Syracuse 8, New York.

## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

**LOONS — DUCKS:** Horned Grebe first seen Oct. 11, common in late Oct. and a few present at the end of Nov. Red-necked Grebe at Perch Lake Oct. 22. Last Pied-billed Grebe seen Nov. 25 (John B. Belknap). A late American Bittern at Madrid Nov. 1 and one seen in area Nov. 2. Great Blue Heron, more numerous than usual in early fall, perhaps indicating successful local breeding (J.B.B.). A swan (probably Whistling) was reported at Point Peninsula Nov. 9 (J. Blake).

An immature Blue Goose landed in the midst of 5,000 turkeys on the O. A. Smith farm, a few miles from Watertown, on September 21 at 7:30 A. M. The goose was attacked by the turkeys, but was rescued before serious harm resulted. The goose is being kept by the Conservation Dept. A few Blue Geese were reported shot by hunters.

Green-winged Teal were at Perch Lake Aug. 12 and two Ruddy Ducks were seen there the same day. Several thousand Scaup were seen in Black River Bay about Nov. 1. (J. B. B.). White-winged Scoters were seen in migration. The first Golden-eyes in the St. Lawrence River were at Ogdensburg Nov. 3. An Old Squaw in winter plumage was noted at Pillar Point Nov. 30.

**HAWKS — OWLS:** Rough-legged Hawks are reported scarce. Marsh Hawks, 6 or 8 could be seen regularly on abandoned farmland near Philadelphia until mid-November. (J. B. B.) A Duck Hawk was at Southwicks Beach Sept. 28.

Coots were seen Oct. 10 and several times along the shore of Lake Ontario in November. Florida Gallinules were numerous at Goose Bay, about 75 mid-September. Last seen Oct. 19. Sanderlings were at Perch Lake August 13 and later along Lake Ontario. A few Pectoral Sandpipers were seen Oct. 6, and a Black-bellied Plover Nov. 14, (late) (J. B. B.) Belknap saw what must have been a Dowitcher on Nov. 9 at Southwicks Beach. It was seen at fairly close range. On June 23, Charles Mason saw a Northern Phalarope, female, off Grenadier Island, Jefferson Co. A Northern Phalarope was seen near Grindstone Island in The St. Lawrence River in early August. Belknap saw a Bonaparte's Gull and four Caspian Terns at Southwicks Beach Sept. 8. A few Great Black-backed Gulls have been reported. J. Blake reports a Snowy Owl in Clayton about Nov. 9, and there have been reports of one or two others.

**SWIFTS — SHRIKES:** Belknap observed at least 50 Swifts enter the chimney of his home in Gouverneur on Aug. 29. Two days later they were gone. He also found Horned Larks numerous in migration in early Nov. and a few present Nov. 30. Last Tree Swallow seen Oct. 6. An Olive-backed Thrush was seen in Watertown Nov. 13. American Pipits seen Sept. 8 to Oct. 25. Shrikes (probably Northern) observed Oct. 26 and later. Most numerous of any fall writes J. B. B.

**WARBLERS — SPARROWS:** From Rev. Edward G. Nichols comes a report of a rarity for this section, an Orange-crowned Warbler seen by him at Madrid on Oct. 11. Two male Red-winged Blackbirds and six Grackles were still coming to a feeding station in Potsdam at the end of Nov. (L. Blake). Two Indigo Buntings were at Madrid Oct. 5. Evening Grosbeaks were seen in November near Waddington, Potsdam, Theresa, Carthage and Brownville. Pine Grosbeaks were found in Scotch pines near Henderson Oct. 2 to 11 with as many as 40 at once (Elitharp). Juncos were very abundant (J. B. B.). Tree Sparrows first seen Oct. 22 and several later records. White-crowned Sparrows stayed about five weeks in Potsdam. Three reports say that these birds were numerous this fall. Snow Buntings were seen only on Oct. 26.

173 Haley St., Watertown, N. Y.

## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THOS. A. LESPERANCE

After a very dry and cool August, much warmer weather was experienced through Oct. And as late as the middle of Nov. when we had our first snow-fall. The unseasonable weather held many species of birds here that would have gone south had conditions been normal. For instance Warblers, Tow-



hees, and many Thrushes could be seen the latter part of Oct. actively feeding on insect life which the warm weather sustained. There are heavy crops of grape, bittersweet, acorns (except white oak) beechnut, apples, hawthorn and wintering conditions appear favorable. Streams have become fuller after near record lows. Lake Champlain is returning to near normal fall levels.

**LOONS — GREBES:** Increasing in numbers on Lake Champlain each year the Loon has become very common and any day as many as 50 to 60 can be seen. Grebes too have increased in the Champlain area as well as inland the most numerous being the Horned Grebe. However, Hobells, and Pied-bill have been seen. A Western Grebe is reported from Middle Saranac Lake Nov. 6 (Kingsbury).

**GULLS — TERNS:** The Gull populations on Lake Champlain remain about the same at this time of year. Birds banded in June and July of this year as downy young have been recovered as far north as 200 miles, only one recovery from the south (N. Carolina). On Oct. 17th. 12-15 Bonaparts Gulls at Au Sable Pt. A flock of about 20 Common Terns flew about a large flock of feeding Mergansers same date.

**HAWKS — OWLS:** On Sept. 11th, moving down the Au Sable River valley in on easterly direction was a rather large group of Hawks for this area numbering about 150 birds. Among them were Red Tail, Red Shouldered, Broad-Winged and Sharp shinned. At the time there was a violent storm occurring directly to the north. The birds were at about 150-1000 ft. high but soaring nicely. This is the first time such an incident has occurred in my period of birding in this area. . . Owls are pretty much in seclusion as none have been seen by our correspondents, however one Snowy Owl has been reported seen at Wickams Marsh during the past week, by a hunter.

**SWIFTS — SWALLOWS — SHRIKES:** Tree Swallows at Au Sable Pt. until Oct. 21st . . . Shrike at Upper Jay Dec. 1st.

**SPARROWS:** White-crowned Sparrows reported as common from all areas, Essex (Mason) Sunmount (Amstutz and Kingsbury) and Ellenburg (McGregor). Tree Sparrows Oct. 23 at Saranac (Amstutz) . . . Chipping, Vesper, Grasshopper, Savannah and Song Sparrows common at Keeseville until early Nov. Purple and Gold Finch now becoming quite common throughout the area as winter residents. Juncos are another friendly winter resident. Pine Siskins at Middle Saranac, Nov. 12 (Amstutz) . . . Towee at Ellenburg Nov. 28 (McGregor).

**WARBLERS — VIREOS:** Warblers stayed quite late, and in large numbers, Myrtle, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Pine, Yellow, Blk. and White, and Redstarts were seen as late as Oct. 23rd at Saranac (Amstutz) and Oct. 28th at Keeseville.

Blackbirds: Redwings reported at Saranac Nov. 12 (Amstutz) Cowbirds and Red wings still in small groups about Keeseville to date.

Larks: Horned Larks at Sunmount 40-50 birds (Amstutz). A presumed pair have been seen all summer and fall on Telegraph St. Keeseville. Meadowlarks seen at Keeseville up until first snow on Nov. 21.

Thrushes: Robin at K'ville Dec. 1st, Bluebird last seen Oct. 21. Wood, Hermit, and Gray-cheeked fairly common until late Oct.

Grossbeaks: After their disappearance in June Evening Grosbeaks are being reported from all areas. Three Pine Grosbeaks seen Buck Hill, Peru, N. Y. on Nov. 28th. . . Mrs. Mason at Essex has banded several over a long period and the re-occurrence as a static species of Essex, K'ville, Saranac, and Ellenburg has changed to a more permanent affair.

Woodpeckers: Pileated, Hairy, and Downey are sure to be found any day you would care to look for them, Reported as common in all areas. Pileated are quite common now and as they are being noticed more people stop by to describe them and ask, "What kind of a bird is it?"

**DUCKS:** I have saved Ducks until last because I would like to remark about them. I am inclined to believe more and more that the St. Lawrence Seaway now currently under way, is causing a larger number of waterfowl to come down the Lake Champlain flyway. Certainly I have never recorded a greater variety of species as this fall. Redheads never more than an occasional one or two, were in flocks of 150 to 300. Blue Wg. Teal, Gr. Teal and Pintail, never too common, were making up three fourths of the hunters bag. Blacks and Mallards were more common on inland ponds as were Wood Duck. Gr. Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Am. Goldeneye, Bufflehead, and Old Squaw, were also more than common, however the Goldeneye which remains common until the lake freezes over has in the past few weeks become scarce. Canada Geese went through in flocks of from 50 to 300 until the end of Nov. Blue

Geese in weak lines but sometimes mixed with Canadas were not seen after the first of Nov. No Snow Geese have been reported to date.  
Keeseville, N. Y.

## REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

JAMES K. MERITT

August rainfall in the Schenectady area totaled 7.32 inches, the high for any August locally. This record was measured in spite of the fact that we missed the really torrential downpours which Hurricane Diane dumped on areas just to the south. August temperatures averaged 74.6 degrees, 4.2 degrees above normal. September's weather was much closer to normal.

Although the fall flight generally did not measure up to par, it was better than that of last spring. Quite a few interesting reports were received, especially for September.

**LOONS — DUCKS:** Horned Grebes were first seen locally at Tomhannock Reservoir, Rensselaer County, on September 26 (Schenectady Bird Club). American Egrets stayed in the area until the latter part of September. About ten were seen along the Hudson near Catskill on September 17 (SBC). The Canada Goose flight was quite conspicuous. As early as August 4 Esly Hallenbeck saw a group of about ervoir, Rensselaer County, on September 26 (Schenectady Bird Club). American Widgeons and a Ring-necked Duck were among the waterfowl species seen at Tomhannock Reservoir on September 26.

**HAWKS — OWLS:** September hawk reports were rather spotty; no flight of any real proportion apparently developed locally. The Virginia Rail was reported from Vischer's Ponds on August 4 and 7. The Sora was seen at the Ponds on August 14 and again on August 31. One or two Soras were observed at a small marsh near Schodack, Rensselaer County, on September 17 (SBC). A Florida Gallinule with at least seven young in tow was seen at Vischer's Ponds on August 9.

Shorebird reports were not plentiful, but one or two records are worthy of mention. A pair of Ringed Plovers was seen at Watervliet Reservoir, just south of Schenectady, on August 31. Two Pectoral Sandpipers were observed there on August 7, and another was noted at Tomhannock Reservoir on September 25. There were two or three reports of the Wilson's Snipe from Vischer's Ponds. A Lesser Yellow-legs was seen at Tomhannock Reservoir on September 25.

In sharp contrast to last fall, the cuckoo migration was very poor. Both species were reported, but in very limited numbers. On August 2 and again on September 12 a Great Horned Owl was heard at Alplaus (Adeline Heitcamp). The Barred Owl was reported from the Jenny Lake area (Guy Bartlett), and several Screech Owls were heard during period at scattered localities.

**GOATSUCKERS — SHRIKES:** The Nighthawk migration was very conspicuous in late August and the first part of September. About fifty individuals were seen over Scotia on the latish date of September 21. The Chimney Swift was last observed at Albany, twelve birds at Albany (Mabel French). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was seen at Loudonville on the relatively late date of September 23 (MF). The only Pileated Woodpecker reported was from Watervliet Reservoir on August 21 (SBC). A late Eastern Kingbird was observed near Columbiaville, Columbia County, on September 17 (SBC). The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported from Loudonville on three occasions between August 19 and September 3 (MF). The Olive-sided was seen there on August 28 and September 16 (MF). Blue Jay groupings were quite conspicuous during September. A Carolina Wren was observed at Scotia on September 25 (EH).

**VIREOS — WARBLERS:** Only a few warbler migrants were reported in August. During September, however, twenty-one warbler species were reported locally, a good total considering the apparent lack of any noteworthy flight. The last Yellow Warbler was seen at Vischer's Ponds on September 25. A rarity was an Orange-crowned Warbler observed by Hallenbeck on three consecutive days (September 24-26) in Scotia. A Cerulean Warbler was reported from Amsterdam on September 2 (Margaret Fitzgerald). A Connecticut Warbler was observed in Scotia on September 27 (EH), and the Black-capped was seen in Loudonville on September 17 by Mabel French.

**BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:** In early August Mrs. Fitzgerald recorded the Cardinal in Amsterdam, and a male bird was a daily visitor throughout the period at Mrs. Hazel Eddy's feeder in Niskayuna. From August 19 through August 30 a male Dickcissel was present at Mrs. Fitzgerald's feeder in Amsterdam. Slate-colored Juncos were first reported in Loudonville on September 8 (MF). White-crowned Sparrows were quite widely reported late in September, and from all indications the flight appeared to rival that of last spring.

Region 8 comprises eleven counties in eastern New York, but virtually all records submitted to me have been from the Albany-Schenectady area. I would greatly welcome reports from other parts of the region, such as Lake George and the northern Catskills.

901 State St., Schenectady 7, N. Y.

## **REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON**

ROBERT F. DEED

August was a month not soon to be forgotten for its heat (hottest August ever at New York City), its deluges (second wettest month in 84 years), and its birds, though the storm waifs seemed to be concentrated in the Hudson Valley of Orange and Rockland-Westchester Counties. September was mild and dry; October again was far above normal in rainfall; November was not exceptional.

The migration itself was generally regarded as quiet. Chief interest, therefore, is in the August storms: Hurricane Connie, with 9½ inches of rain on Aug. 11-13, and Hurricane Diane, which dropped 9 to 12 inches of rain on Aug. 18. In our region, only Sullivan and Ulster Counties bore the brunt of Diane; New York City, for example, registered only a moderate rainfall.

Neither Connie nor Diane was officially a hurricane by the time it reached our latitude, but winds were full-gale strength (60 to 75 mph.). Moreover, Connie — unlike any other recent hurricane — continued to blow from the south at 30 to 40 mph. for 36 hours after the sky had cleared. This kept storm strays pinned down in the inland areas where they had been driven. Thus, the lower Hudson Valley, for the first time in the hurricane series of recent years, benefitted by some phenomenal records. The tail of Diane flooded vast areas of the Rondout and Walkill valleys in Ulster County and the Delaware watershed in Sullivan County. Fred Hough reports finding several birds apparently drowned in Ulster County, but doubts extensive loss of bird life.

**LOONS — DUCKS:** Henry and Ilse Dunbar, experienced observers, believe they saw a Pacific Loon on Ashokan Reservoir, Ulster County, on Oct. 21. They offer the record with a question mark. An early Common Loon was noted in Westchester on Sept. 18 by Stanley O. Grierson.

Horned Grebes were on Palisades Interstate Park lakes by Nov. 10 (John C. Orth), with three on Lake Tiorati on Nov. 11 (Edward D. Treacy). Treacy also reports two on Orange Lake, Orange County, on Nov. 13 and one on the Hudson at Cornwall on Nov. 26.

Dr. Marjorie R. Hopper saw a rather late American Egret at Grassy Point, Rockland County, on Oct. 23, a week prior to the region's latest date.

Good flights of Canada Geese were reported. About 60 Brant were seen on Ashokan Reservoir on Oct. 22 by the Dunbars, Hough, and Dr. Robert Pyle. Brant were also reported on Nov. 18 at Neversink Dam, Sullivan County (Chernick).

Treacy found two Blue-winged Teal on the Hudson at Cornwall on Aug. 17. Two Redheads were on Congers Lake, Rockland, on Nov. 1 (Hopper) and another on Orange Lake on Nov. 13 (Treacy). More than 300 Canvasbacks settled down for the winter at Grassy Point, on the Hudson in Rockland County. Orth reports Buffleheads on Palisades Interstate Park lakes in mid-November, and Rockland County's first record for the American Scoter, a female picked up in dying condition at Iona Island on Nov. 10. More than 500 Ruddy Ducks congregated in the Tappan Zee, Rockland County, in November.



**HAWKS — OWLS:** The three last Turkey Vultures at Bear Mountain were on Nov. 1 (Orth). Accipiters seemed to predominate in the hawk flight through the Shawangunk Mountains, Ulster, with a peak around Sept. 18-19, though 183 Broadwings were seen on Sept. 18 (Treacy). David Hill saw a Red-tailed Hawk in Rockland County on the unusual date of Aug. 4.

On Oct. 29, David and Ethel Hill and Thomas Dow saw three Golden Eagles, observed for minutes and well described, circling over the Grand View waterfront of Rockland County. A pair of adult Bald Eagles accompanied by two immatures flew along the Delaware River near Barryville on Aug. 24 (Wilber P. Carr).

Numbers of Ruffed Grouse in Ulster County are reported low (Hough). Wild Turkeys, on the other hand, are on the increase in Sullivan County, says Carr, with three seen on Nov. 1 by McBride.

Treacy found a King Rail, rare in the region, at Moodna Creek near Cornwall, Orange County, on Aug. 8. Stan Grierson reports a Sora with a Wilson's Snipe in Katonah on Sept. 26.

Shorebirds made a spectacular flight in the Hudson Valley. During Hurricane Connie on Aug. 13, Treacy at Cornwall found a Ruddy Turnstone (second record for the area) and six Black-bellied Plovers (also second occurrence). On Aug. 14, shorebirds at Piermont Pier in Rockland County included Pectoral Sandpiper (fourth record), Ruddy Turnstone (third), Semipalmated Plover, and at least three Western Sandpipers (first occurrence). On Aug. 19, Paul DeLaura noted five Greater Yellowlegs at Mt. Kisco, in Westchester.

Hurricane Connie's most dramatic effect, however, was on the terns:

**Sooty Tern** — At West Point on Aug. 14, seen through 25x telescope in sunlight at 200-yard range by Ed Treacy as it flew downstream.

**Black Tern** — One at West Point on Aug. 14 (Treacy, Frank and Ruth Steffens) and another at Cornwall on Aug. 16 (Treacy). New record.

**Least Tern** — Also on the local list for the first time. Fully two dozen were counted on Aug. 14-16. On the 14th, while Connie's winds were still blowing, Mr. and Mrs. Steffens watched a bird being fed on the water at Stony Point. John Orth observed another of these terns at Lake Sebago, several miles inland from the Hudson, at the height of the storm on Aug. 13. Four birds were still at Cornwall Bay on Aug. 16 (Treacy).

**Common Tern** — Normal numbers were slightly increased by the storm, and birds occurred farther upriver than usual.

**Royal Tern** — An immature bird at Piermont Pier on Aug. 14 was almost surely this species (Deed). It was observed perched at less than 150 feet, studied through 12x glasses, and compared with the Caspian Tern, with which the observer is acquainted. In clear whiteness of forehead and color of bill, it checked with the Royal, though the relative length of tail to folded wing failed clearly to do so.

Five "unidentified terns" were seen at Croton Point, Westchester side of the Hudson River, on Nov. 24 by John and Edward Kelly (Ed.: possibly the ternlike Bonaparte's Gull?).

Two Great Horned Owls were calling at West Nyack in late evening of Nov. 20 (Frances H. Irving). Treacy found a Snowy Owl at West Point on Nov. 24. Stanley Grierson saw the rare Saw-whet Owl in Katonah on Nov. 21. Unusually large flights of Nighthawks were reported in August and September.

**SWIFTS — SHRIKES:** By far the latest Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Rockland County records was noted by Tom Dow on Oct. 17 at Grand View. An immature Red-headed Woodpecker came to the feeding station of Robert J. Hamerslag in northern Westchester from Nov. 14 through 18. Many Pileated Woodpeckers are reported, indicating a continuing increase.

Fred Hough reports a noticeably heavy flight of Kingbirds in Ulster County during August; the last was seen on Sept. 17. Ed Treacy had the good fortune to see three Olive-sided Flycatchers; Aug. 28 at Cornwall, Aug. 31 at West Point, Sept. 5 at Cornwall.

Tree Swallows passed through in their familiar thousands. In mid-September, Stan Grierson estimated about 1,000 on the roof of the South Salem School. A rather late small flock was seen at Kingston Point, in Ulster, on Oct. 22 (Dunbar, Hough, Pyle).

A Canada Jay was identified on Nov. 5 by Dimock at Hartwood, Sullivan County — doubtless the first record for the region. The Tufted Titmouse population is off in the New Paltz area of Ulster (Pyle), but seems to be increasing in southern Orange County (Treacy). This species is still rare across the Hudson; one was seen in Mianus Gorge, Bedford, on Oct. 22 by Gerald Wood, Helen Braem and Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Orbison. A Brown Creeper at West Point on Sept. 1 (Treacy) was so early that it

may reflect nesting in the Highlands nearby; the species is known to breed there. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kurka observed a Carolina Wren in Katonah, Westchester, on Nov. 15. A Mockingbird at Carmel, Putnam County, on Sept. 3 is reported by Paul DeLaura, who is familiar with this bird in the South. James Todd recorded a rather late Brown Thrasher in Bedford on Oct. 18.

At Sparkill, Rockland, David and William Hill watched two birds they believe to have been Ravens, on Nov. 11. They studied the birds perched and in flight and noted the shaggy throat and wedge-shaped tail. This species had never been recorded in Rockland County.

Robins moved in flocks of 1,000 or more. In mid-October, two complete albinos and one partial albino attracted attention in Rockland County.

A young Cedar Waxwing, not yet able to fly well, was found at Kripplebush, Ulster, on the late date of Sept. 2 (Hough). In the same area on Nov. 20, a Gray (Northern) Shrike persistently chased a Tree Sparrow (the Dunbars, Samuel and Helen Hayes, Hough, Pyle). A Migrant (Loggerhead) Shrike was seen near New City, Rockland, on Sept. 1 (Hopper).

**VIREOS — WARBLERS:** A Solitary (Blue-headed) Vireo at New City on Nov. 3 (Stiffens) was rather late. David Hill and Tom Dow recorded Rockland County's second Philadelphia Vireo on Sept. 28 near Piermont.

A Parula Warbler on Nov. 1 (Dow, Hill) was 20 days late for Rockland County. Even more spectacularly tardy was the Magnolia Warbler on Nov. 27 feeding on sluggish flies at Fred Hough's home in Kripplebush, Ulster County. David Hill listed a new late date for Rockland County for the Black-throated Blue Warbler — Oct. 29. Nashville Warbler had extremes of Aug. 20 (Hopper) and Sept. 3 (Treacy) in the Rockland-Orange area. Treacy found three Bay-breasted Warblers at Cornwall on Sept. 3; Frances Irving noted one at West Nyack, Rockland, on Aug. 27. This species is not often reported in fall. Neither is the Black-capped (Wilson's) Warbler that David Hill saw on Sept. 9. Hill and Dow also scored a November date for the American Redstart.

**BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:** Fantastically large flocks of redwings and grackles attracted attention in Rockland County through most of October and November.

A male Dickcissel turned up on Nov. 1 at the feeding station of Shirley Towbis in Millwood, Westchester. Evening Grosbeaks have arrived in substantial numbers, beginning with a flock of 50 at Arkville, Sullivan County, on Sept. 7 (Wilber P. Carr); Oct. 21 at Kripplebush, Ulster (Hough); Nov. 10 at Carmel, Putnam County (Mrs. George Little); Nov. 13 at Bear Mountain, Orange-Rockland (Peter Smith, John Mead); Nov. 23 in Westchester and Rockland (Grierson and John M. Price).

Rockland County had its first House Finch on Nov. 13 through 17 (Mrs. John M. Price). Pine Grosbeaks appeared in Palisades Interstate Park (Orange-Rockland) on Nov. 16 (John Kenney). A late Towhee was at Hartwood, Sullivan, on Nov. 12 (Dimock).

An early Slate-colored Junco arrived in Katonah on Sept. 19 (William Russell), with the big flocks reaching northern Westchester on Oct. 3. First juncos in Rockland were on Sept. 21 (Hopper, Mr. and Mrs. Steffens). Treacy studied an Oregon Junco at Camp Buckner, West Point, on Nov. 19. Several White-crowned Sparrows were noted in Rockland and Ulster. Ruth and Stanley Grierson saw a Lincoln's Sparrow in Katonah on Oct. 12, and Fred Hough found one in his rose garden at Kripplebush, Ulster, on Sept. 25. A Snow Bunting was seen near New City on Nov. 12 (Mr. and Mrs. Steffens) and a flock of 33 at Waccabuc, northern Westchester, on Nov. 23 (Grierson, Dr. Andrew Weir).

50 Clinton Ave., Nyack, N. Y.

## REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

During early, hot, dry August, the woods appeared almost birdless. Resident species barely moved and the early-August warbler migrants were largely missing. The rather dependable Northern Water-Thrush appeared August 5 at Great River and August 6 at Massapequa, although there was extreme hot weather. This is close to its 10 year average appearance. Late August produced a few species of southbound land birds, and by the first week in September the gradual fall flight was on. This slowed somewhat for a few weeks after late September until large numbers of Ruby-crowned Kinglets



appeared around October 20, and on October 22 the countryside, especially along the south shore of Long Island, was flooded with a large movement of Flickers, Robins, Hermit Thrushes, Juncos and White-throated Sparrows.

The water birds passed through regularly with few exceptional records. There was a heavy flight of Black Terns, however, this year, with 1,500 seen off Jamaica Bay, September 6; 400 on September 7 and 300 at Bellport on September 3. After the hurricane weather, few southern rarities turned up, and Wilson's Plover was practically unreported. A few species of ducks appeared early, but numbers were down until mid-November. Pelagic birds did not show off-shore to any extent and the hawk flight was rather poor, except for a few falcon reports.

**LOONS — DUCKS:** Both Common and Red-throated Loons were found sparingly until recent weeks; eight Cory's Shearwaters were observed at Montauk, September 4 (E. Mudge), and the first Gannet at Shinnecock, September 10 (R. Wilcox). There was a fair flight of white egrets, with 62 American Egrets at East Moriches, September 16. Three lingered into late October at Jones Beach and a straggler was seen December 3 at Hempstead Lake (D. Guthrie). A few Louisiana Herons appeared this year on the south shore and one at Orient, September 12 (R. Latham). The last Double-crested Cormorants were seen flying over Jones Beach on November 20. At South Haven on November 8 was a close flock of 101 Mute Swans; nine Snow and two Blue Geese were seen at Jones Beach, November 20 (R. Arbib, A. Penberthy), and 40 Snow Geese at Far Rockaway, November 15 (Mrs. J. Bull). European Widgeon was seen at several eastern Long Island locations. The Ring-necked Duck, Canvas-back, Scoters and the Red-breasted Merganser were fairly abundant in late November. Hooded Mergansers were scarce, as in the past few years. During October and November European Widgeon, Gadwall, Pintail, Shoveller and Canvas-back were reported at Central Park, N. Y. C., and a White-winged Scoter (a first record) was present there into December (Mrs. P. Messing). Eight species of hawks, mostly singles, were seen at Orient, September 17, the time of the nation-wide count (Latham). The best falcon record was 10 Sparrow and 35 Pigeon Hawks in one hour at midday, September 21, Westhampton to Shinnecock (Wilcox). Only one early fall record for Duck Hawk; September 22, in the Shinnecock area. The usual number of Common Rails, with eight Virginia at Brookhaven, late November (D. Puleston) and a dead King Rail found at Merrick in late November. Very few reports of Black Rail and none of Yellow Rail.

**PLOVERS — OWLS:** There were few rare sandpipers reported this fall. The Oyster-catcher was missing; Golden Plover was reported about the first half of September. The Upland Plover passed through principally at the same time. Buff-breasted Sandpiper was recorded in September from Moriches and lower Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn. The Stilt Sandpiper was not common; a Woodcock spent about three weeks in a thicket at Jones Beach into early November, and five Wilson's Snipe were seen at Tackapausha at that time. There were five Wilson's Snipe seen at Tackapausha at that time. There were five Willet, 100 Knot and 20 Red-backed Sandpipers at Moriches, August 28; and on August 14 one Marbled, three Hudsonian Godwits and four Bonaparte's Gulls. Very few rarer gulls have been reported to date. Very dissimilar to last year's influx of southern shore birds and terns, there were only a few Royal Terns in late July and one in September. The Caspian Tern passed through almost unrecorded; however, mid-August records of the Sooty Tern, following hurricane Connie, were phenomenal, with three reported from the 69th St. Ferry, Brooklyn, August 13 and one on the Staten Island Ferry, August 15; also there were four or five records from Jones Beach eastward (numerous observers).

No Alcids records to date; a fair flight of Mourning Doves showed up on eastern Long Island. A dove found dead at Hicksville, and rushed off November 16 to Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Md. by Curator Morgan of Tackapausha Museum, Seaford, was reportedly dead from a severe infection with *Trichomonas* in the esophagus according to Carlton M. Herman, Wildlife Pathologist. Last record of Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Brookhaven, October 28 (Miss J. Puleston). No Snowy Owls to date; two Short-eared at Spring Creek, November 6; four or five records of Saw-whet, maximum, two at Jones Beach, November 24.

**SWIFTS — SHRIKES:** There was a small flight of Nighthawks at Manorville, September 16; Red-headed Woodpecker appeared at Central Park, October 10 and a Red-bellied Woodpecker at Cutchogue, November 19, 20. Half-dozen records of Western Kingbird, maximum, Mastic, September 10, three (J. T. Nichols). A

good flight of flycatchers came through Woodmere woods, September 7. Among swallows: 100 Purple Martins were present at Yaphank, September 2; 15,000 Tree Swallows at Jones Beach, October 7, and Barn Swallows were migrating through until November 8 at Moriches. There was a good flight of Brown Creepers in early October and Red-breasted Nuthatches around mid-November. Carolina Wren was recorded as far west as Mill Neck. Several Mockingbird reports from late October; both Gray-cheeked and Olive-backed Thrushes were seen into late October. Shrikes came through in September with few records since October 8.

**VIREOS — WARBLERS:** The last Red-eyed Vireo: Brookhaven, October 29; Philadelphia Vireos were scarce; Blue-headed Vireo was present at Mastic, with two on October 22. Orange-crowned Warbler appeared at Riis Park and Gilgo, November 22. The Warbler migration was straggling. Tennessees and Cape Mays were less common than usual; small flocks came through into late October. Several late Yellow-breasted Chats were reported, with one at a Floral Park feeding station, November 29. Connecticut Warbler was seen at Central Park, September 23 (Mrs. Messing). Late dates: Prairie, Hempstead, Nov. 1; Hooded, Jones Beach, October 23 (A. Penberthy); Black-throated Blue, Jones Beach, November 8. (W. Larrabee).

**BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:** Maximum grackles: Mastic, October 23, 2,000; Western Tanager at Far Rockaway, October 3, and an earlier record at Great Neck; there were half dozen reports of Dickcissel on western Long Island; Evening Grosbeak, November 20 at Riis Park; a good flight of Siskins and Goldfinches, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows. Purple Finches were normal; Pine Grosbeaks and Redpolls absent to date; one or two records of European Goldfinch in mid-summer. One record of Red Crossbill: Jones Beach, November 13, flock of 12 (Lyman Langdon and National Audubon Societies); only White-winged Crossbill records, three at Gilgo, November and although Longspurs were lacking, several good flocks of up to 50 Snow Buntings were seen.

3994 Park Avenue, Seaford, Long Island, New York.

### KINGBIRD TIMETABLE

<i>Regional Report Coverage</i>	<i>Deadline to Kingbird.</i>	<i>Approx. Publ. Date</i>	<i>Issue Number</i>
Dec., Jan.	April 15	May 15	No. 1—May Issue
Feb., March			
April, May	June 15	July 15	No. 2—July Issue
June, July	Sept. 15	Oct. 15	No. 3—Oct. Issue
Aug., Sept.	Dec. 15	Jan. 15	No. 4—Jan. Issue
Oct., Nov.			

**ANNUAL  
MEETING**

**MAY 12 - 13**

**Roger Smith Hotel  
White Plains, N. Y.**

**Bedford, Saw Mill and Scarsdale Audubon Societies**

**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS**

*1956 Officers*

President

Peter Paul Kellogg -----Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, N. Y.

Vice-President

Albert W. Fudge -----326 Larchmont Rd., Elmira, N. Y.

Corresponding Secretary

Miss Elizabeth S. Manning -----1130 Fifth Ave., New York 28, N. Y.

Recording Secretary

Miss Elizabeth A. Feldhusen -----5 Catherine Street, Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

Treasurer

Allan S. Klonick -----828 Grosvenor Road, Rochester 18, N. Y.

---

Editor of **THE KINGBIRD**

**GERALD S. RISING**

72 Allen's Creek Road, Rochester 18, N. Y.